

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

3682

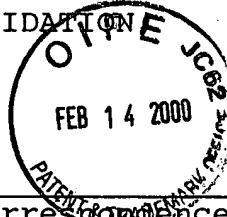
#4/amdt B  
2-23-00

Re: R.H. Hall & T.W. Selby  
Serial No. 09/172,577  
Filing Date 10/13/98  
For INERT GAS BLANKET FOR  
PROTECTION FROM OXIDATION

Attn: Group Art Unit 3682  
Examiner Chong H. Kim

Amendment

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231



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I certify that this correspondence is being mailed by first class mail, postage-prepaid, with the U.S. Postal Service under 37 CFR 1.8 addressed to the address above on the date below:

Christopher John Rudy: Christopher John Rudy Date: 02/10/00.

Sir:

Thank you for the 11/10/99 Office action (Paper No. 2) and the 02/09/00 interview, immediately summarized by the Examiner on the PTO-413 of record, for the application of reference. In reply to Paper No. 2 and in consideration of the interview and PTO-413, please amend the specification of this application:

In the Claims

16 (Once amended). A method for controlling oxidative degradation of an oleaginous liquid substance in a generally enclosed, vented space in a working machine, which comprises providing a working machine having said space; providing said oleaginous liquid substance; and providing an inert gas blanket to said space.

17 (Once amended). The method of claim 16, wherein said oleaginous liquid substance is selected from the group consisting of an oil [or] and a transmission fluid, and said machine is selected from the group consisting of a transmission box, a gear box that is not a transmission box, an internal combustion engine having a crankcase for holding a supply of lubricant and wherein said oleaginous substance is present in the crankcase as the lubricant, and a combination thereof.

Cancel without prejudice or disclaimer claim 18.